



EL NIÑO 2026

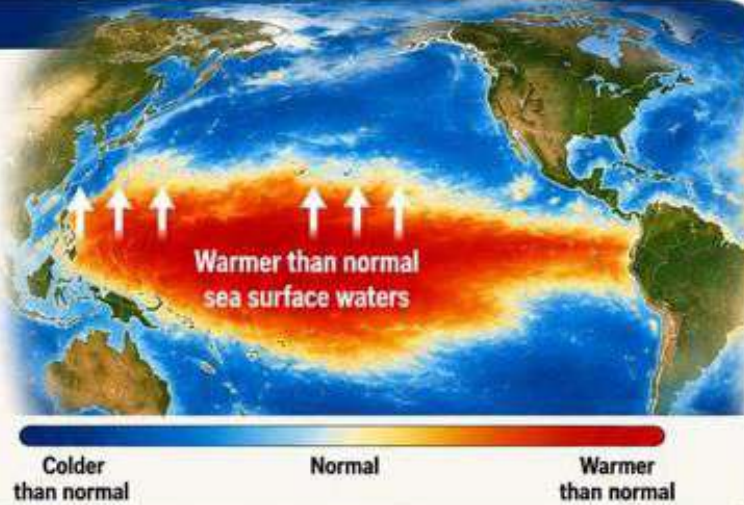
Implications for Food Sovereignty and Agroecology in Africa

Southern and Eastern Africa

WHAT IS EL NIÑO?

El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon that occurs when sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean become warmer than normal.

It disrupts global rainfall and temperature patterns, causing droughts, floods, storms and other impacts in many regions, including Africa.



TRENDS FOR 2026



High probability that El Niño will develop between June and September 2026.



Drier than normal conditions in many parts of Africa.



Significant impacts on food production, water, grazing lands and livelihoods.



Early preparation and collective action are essential.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS BY REGION IN AFRICA

NORTH AFRICA



- Hotter and drier conditions
- Water stress and shortages
- Lower crop yields
- Higher risk of wildfires and desertification

WEST AFRICA



- Late onset and early end of the rainy season
- Droughts and heat waves
- Lower cereal and legume yields
- Food insecurity and higher prices

CENTRAL AFRICA



- Irregular rainfall and heavy storms
- Flooding in some areas, drought in others
- Impacts on rivers, forests, biodiversity and livelihoods
- Water-related diseases on the rise

EAST AFRICA



- Repeated dry spells and droughts
- Less water for people, livestock and crops
- Lower agricultural productivity and pasture loss
- Conflicts over resources and displacements

SOUTHERN AFRICA



- Less rainfall and prolonged droughts
- Lower maize and other staple crop yields
- Water shortages and pasture loss
- Increased risk of wildfires and extreme heat



These impacts are not inevitable. Diversified agroecological systems and organized communities can build resilience and face climate shocks.

WHAT CAN PEASANT COMMUNITIES DO?

PROTECT AND DIVERSIFY LOCAL SEEDS



Preserve farmer seed systems and local varieties adapted to changing conditions and more resilient to droughts, floods and pests.

HARVEST AND CONSERVE WATER



Promote rainwater harvesting, soil moisture conservation and community water management at all levels.

INVEST IN AGROECOLOGICAL FARMING SYSTEMS



Strengthen agroforestry, crop diversification, intercropping, soil fertility management and other agroecological practices that build resilience to climate shocks.

STRENGTHEN PEASANT-TO-PEASANT EXCHANGES



Share knowledge, innovations and adaptation strategies through farmer exchanges, agroecology schools and community learning processes.

STRENGTHEN LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS AND SOLIDARITY NETWORKS



Support local markets, territorial food systems, collective storage and solidarity mechanisms to improve food security in times of climate stress.

ORGANIZE AND DEFEND CLIMATE JUSTICE



Act collectively to defend land, water, seeds and peasant rights, and demand policies that promote food sovereignty, agroecology and climate adaptation.



Agroecology builds resilience, protects biodiversity and advances food sovereignty.

